

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

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R 101436 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8640

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5258

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SO, UR, ET

SUBJECT: PODGORNYY MEETING WITH NEW ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR

REF MOSCOW 4028

1. SOVIETS APPARENTLY TOOK OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY ARRIVAL OF NEW ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO TRY TO EASE ETHIOPIAN SUSPICIONS ABOUT MOSCOW'S INTENTIONS IN AREA, USING SAME LINE AS THAT REPORTED REFTEL. ACCORDING TO ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR, AMBASSADOR YOHANNES TSEGHE WAS TOLD BY PODGORNYY ON APRIL 23 (FOLLOWING FORMAL PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS) THAT MOSCOW SUPPORTS INVIOABILITY OF EXISTING ETHIOPIAN/ SOMALI BORDER.

2. PODGORNYY STRESSED NEED FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF BORDER ISSUE THAT WOULD ACCOMMODATE LEGITIMATE NEEDS OF MIGRATING TRIBAL PEOPLES, AND MENTIONED MOROCCAN/ ALGERIAN AGREEMENT AS EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT MOSCOW'S MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA WAS FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES
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ONLY, AND POINTEDLY REMARKED THAT AID TO SOMALIA SHOULD BE SEEN IN LIGHT OF US MILITARY SUPPORT TO ETHIOPIA. TSEGHE REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED ETHIOPIAN READINESS TO SEEK PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND SAID SOMALI TERRITORIAL PRETENTIONS AND INFLEXIBILITY WERE CAUSE FOR TENSIONS.

3. COMMENT. ETHIOPIAN COUNSELOR, WHO FOR MONTHS HAS VOICED DEEP ANXIETY OVER SOVIET/ SOMALI RELATIONSHIP, WAS DECIDEDLY MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT AND MORE AT EASE ABOUT MOSCOW' S INTENTIONS IN AREA. IT APPEARS THAT WARM KREMLIN RECEPTION AND PODGORNY ASSURANCES TO NEW ETHIOPIAN ENVOY HAVE DISPELLED SOME ANXIETY ON THE PART AT LEAST OF ETHIOPIANS IN MOSCOW.
DUBS

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To: ADDIS ABABA
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